

# June 2010

*St. James*

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# Assistant Minister

Well, here we are into our second month 'Post Paul', and the church has started the process of 'what do we do now'. For some of us, it's a trip to the Book of Order (every good Presbyterian keeps a copy on his shelf in between their Bible and their collection of poems by Robbie Burns). For me, it was to wonder what does it mean to be Presbyterian? And does it mean anything at all in today's day and age?

I was interested, therefore, to read in the latest Spanz magazine an article by Graeme Redding (head of the Presbyterian Church in NZ, until October this year). In the article Graeme explains what it means to be Presbyterian – Presbyterianism refers first and foremost to a form of church government, which ministers and elders say in their ordination vows 'Is agreeable to the word of God'. Presbyter is a New Testament word, often translated 'Elder'. The Presbyterian Church is a Church ruled by elders. Ministers are sometimes called teaching elders. They are distinguished from ruling elders by their function, which is to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion according to Christ's command.

The Presbyterian Church therefore places a strong emphasis on corporate or shared leadership primarily through a hierarchy of Church councils. (Sessions and Parish Councils).... All well and good, you might say, but what do Presbyterians actually believe? Graeme gets very Presbyterian now and quotes from the Book Of Order; 'It is not what Presbyterians believe that is important, but what Christians believe', making us return to the Bible and check out Jesus for ourselves.

His article reminds me again that St James relies on its members, and not some national leadership body, to function and minister as the body of Christ.

Romans 12:4-11 says:

We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.

I think we are very blessed in St James to have members who do work hard, serving the Lord with a heart full of devotion. I have been encouraged by the way people have stepped up to cover preaching slots, administration, and caring for those in need, since Paul has left and I look forward to what God is going to do in the future through people who love him.

Cheers  
Gary

# Congregational Meeting—Sunday 27 June 10

The process of appointing a new minister has now begun with the appointment of Tom Millar as our Interim Moderator.

The next step in the process is the forming of a Ministry Settlement Board.

This board consists of :

- A Convener – Neil Walker (Hawera) has been appointed as ours.
- Two members of Presbytery – Rev. John Wilkie and Jim Welham.
- Two St James session members – Session has put forward Drew Bennett and Neil Penno.
- Four **members** of the congregation.

The purpose of the congregational meeting is to elect these four members. They will need to be members of St James.

The tasks of the Ministry Settlement Board include:

- to review the life of the congregation and to make recommendations regarding the future of the congregation, life, worship and mission.

This is an awesome opportunity to be involved in the future direction of St James.

Please pray, give careful consideration and discuss amongst yourselves about who you feel the four elected members should be, and if you have any questions at all, please talk to any session member.

The meeting is to be held after the service on Sunday 27 June.

Delwyn Bennett

## St James Women's Group

We've had a great start to the St James Women's Group. In March we had Yvette showing us aromatherapy oils, in April Tania helped us make Gospel bracelets and in May we watched a funny and light-hearted Liz Curtis Higgs DVD.

This month is the Influencing Women's Conference on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 June. If you haven't yet registered, get in quick. Registration forms are in the church foyer.

Coming up soon is Buzz and making cupcakes. You can bring along any books you would like to share with others in the group.

Christine and Jo

# Fundraising Committee

I would like to thank my committee who combine together very well and make my job very easy with organising our different functions. Also all the help from the Church family who so willingly offer to help or supply goods for each event.

This year we have had the Multi-Ethnic Extravaganza selling South African pancakes and ginger beer at Yarrows Stadium on 27 March. We made \$952.

By the time this newsletter is out we would have had our Memory Movies lunch on Saturday 5 June, which I am sure everyone who attends will enjoy, especially dressing in the 1950's era!!!!

We may be having a cake stall during August at Moturoa, but will keep you posted.

Suzanne May-Gurnick

# Bargain Basement

The shop continues to be a place of community and Fellowship as folk come in searching for garments for themselves or family members.

Donations of used clothing have been remarkably generous this year and sometimes we are amazed at the quality, really classy stuff.

A big thank you to all who give so willingly to our fundraising efforts.



Another Blessing this year has been the extra volunteers who staff the shop each Tuesday and Thursday. We have been active since 1986 when this bargain basement was initiated by Jean Gordon. What a grand idea it turned out to be!

May we continue to trade and raise funds for a community outreach which has blessed many and given much encouragement.

Mavis Lelievre

# St James APW

During the past year we have maintained our roll at 24 members with an average attendance at our monthly meetings of 16–18 ladies.

Our programmes have been varied and our Sales Table is well supported by our members both with providing goods for sale and customers buying.

From this we have been able to donate \$300 to the 'Special Projects' of the combined APW and MWF National Organisation (this year's recipients were Youth of NZ and the CEPAD organisation in Nicaragua) as well as \$400 to church funds.

It is with sadness that we record the death in November of our well-loved, hard-working Secretary Jeannie Clark.

Marilyn King

## Treasurer

With the end of the financial year looming, it must be almost a year since I took over from Jennie as your Treasurer. Thank you for the privilege of serving in this way. At the end of 10 months, a check on the budget suggests we are pretty much on target, thanks to a number of factors, not least the efforts of our Fundraising Committee. Well done!

We have recently purchased a new data projector as the lamp in the old one is on borrowed time and the new improved projector was little more than the cost of a new lamp! I'm sure you have noticed the difference in the print clarity.



The Property Committee have been very active in preparing the Manse for tenancy. Many hours have been spent and heaps of work done, both inside and out. Mark has kept the Finance Committee up to date with a comprehensive report and most jobs have been completed at little or no cost. Joan, Mark, Kerry, Harold and helpers, you are a fantastic team!

Those who man and support the Bargain Basement Shop are also much appreciated. Funds mainly support local mission.

Lorraine Goodwin

## Youth Group

Over the last couple of years there has been a growing group of girls that attend the Sunday Church service and sit in the front row. These girls all attend Scotland's Hostel at New Plymouth Girls High. We thought that it was about time that we let you know a little bit about ourselves so here goes.

First there is Bernadine Gladding who was the first of us to ever go to the church because her Nana Mary Gladding attends here. She introduced all of us to this church and for that we are grateful. Bernadine is 15 and lives right here in New Plymouth, she loves art and drama and is very passionate about English. She is also in the First Eleven Soccer team and is a member of the Church youth band. When asked what has Saint James offered you? she said " it has offered me a chance to meet new people and to see my nana, also to express my love for God musically."

Next there is Renee Washington, she lives in Feilding and is 16 years old. She is also in the First Eleven Soccer team and the First Eleven Cricket team at N.P.G.H.S and is a keen indoor netball player. She also helps out with the youth band. She is very interested in the sciences and accounting. When asked would you give up going to Saint James to attend another church? She replied no, Saint James is the first church that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Letitia Hansen. She has the most energy someone could ever have packed into the little body that she has. Letitia is 16 and lives in Eltham. She is in the N.P.G.H.S First Eleven for soccer and also does gymnastics. Letitia is very involved with her sport in fitness that is why it may not come as a surprise that her favourite subject at school is Physical Education. When we asked Letitia what influenced her to attend Saint James? she said that Bernadine and Jonte influenced her.

Jasmine Butler is 16 and lives in Hawera, she is one of the lead singers in the youth band, and she is also a member of one of the soccer teams at N.P.G.H.S. She was one of the lead characters in the recent musical 'For Today' which was held at New Plymouth Girls High. Jasmine attends a journalism course at WITT; she aspires to be a radio broadcaster in the future. When we asked her how has your life change since you have met God? She answered "I have become that much better looking. I have become more generous towards my peers, and my relationships with my family have improved dramatically."

Sophie Frewin is 16 and lives half an hour up a place called Waitotara Valley. Sophie is a very open minded girl, who is involved in indoor netball, and loves physical education. When we asked her when did you first find God? She said, "I was introduced to him in primary school when they started doing Religious Education. But when that stopped I wasn't involved until i started attending Saint James."

Sarah Hylton (16) and Sacha (Billie) Howard (17) and have only been attending church for a short while as the are new to Scotland's Hostel, Sarah lives in Wanganui and Sacha lives in Palmerston North. Kathleen Butler and Kathryn Woodd, who are both 16, only attend occasionally. Kathryn lives in South Auckland and Kathleen lives in the infamous Kaponga. Ariana Hansen (14) also lives in Eltham, and does attend youth group and church occassionally.

Jonte Thompson, (16) hasn't attended this year as she is on a year long exchange in France; however she was one of the first from Scotland's Hostel to attend with Bernadine. She loves Drama and Fashion and aspires to be a Fashion Designer.

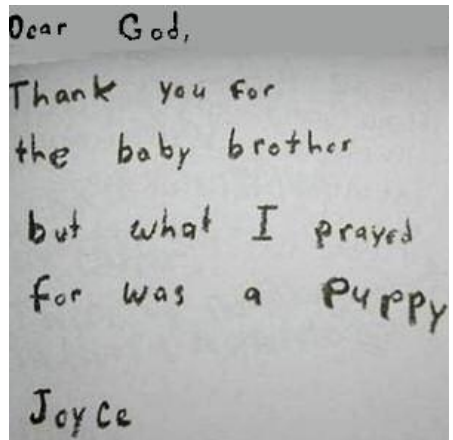
Well that's all of us, we hope you have got to know us a little better now, don't be afraid to come up and talk to us we would greatly appreciate it, and love to get to know all of you.

## **Dynamite Bay**

This term we are teaching the story of Daniel and concentrating on the cost of being a follower of God at school and home. We have all found Nebuchadnezzar to be an interesting bloke with somewhat of an ego problem. Luke has been a great help and is also helping with the Youth Group. We still have a large number of high school age attending, and ten to twelve primary school age.

Can you please pray for Dynamite Bay as we are in need of two people to take responsibility for our primary school age kids. If you are interested in this ministry can you contact me.

Cheers  
Gary



Dear God,  
Thank you for  
the baby brother  
but what I prayed  
for was a Puppy  
Joyce

## ***PARISH DIRECTORY***

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